



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
Michigan Chapter**

September 10, 2013

RE: Support for HB 4792 and HB 4799

Dear Criminal Justice Committee Members:

The National MS Society, Michigan Chapter is pleased to voice our support for HB 4792 and HB 4799, legislation aimed at protecting non-motorized roadway users and educating motorists about safely sharing Michigan roads.

The Bike MS Ride is the largest cycling series in the country with over a hundred rides in the United States, four right here in Michigan. The Bike MS Ride is one of our largest annual fundraising events and while the funds raised are critical in allowing us to continue to provide programs and services to people with MS and fund cutting edge research the safety of our 1,200 participants is our top priority.

Michigan is making great strides in improving the safety of our roadways for all users. Our state leads the nation with nearly 90 locally adopted Complete Streets ordinances and resolutions. Coupled with these infrastructure improvements, and ongoing efforts to improve driver's education in our state, this legislation provides law enforcement and prosecutors with an enhanced set of tools that fill the gap between basic traffic infractions and more serious crimes.

Despite these efforts, a disproportionally high number of Michigan bicyclists and pedestrians are involved in crashes that result in deaths or serious injuries. In fact, so many bicyclists are killed in motor vehicle accidents we have had to recently institute a "Memory Mile" during our events to honor and recognize those participants that have died while cycling.

We are very encouraged to see broad bipartisan support for these common sense bills, as demonstrated by the 20 individual Representatives from both sides of the aisle who signed on as cosponsors of HB 4792 and HB 4799. This includes numerous members of the Criminal Justice Committee.

We are also pleased to note that the draft Michigan Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Action Plan 2013-2016 recommends the adoption of vulnerable roadway user legislation as a means to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.



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On behalf of the Michigan Chapter of the National MS Society, our board of directors and the 18,000 people living with MS in Michigan, we strongly urge you to vote in favor of HB 4792 and HB 4799.

Sincerely,

Tammy Willis
Vice President, Special Events
Michigan Chapter, National MS Society